In the Claims

Please cancel claims 4, 23, 26, 85, 102 and 105 without disclaimer or prejudice to applicants' right to pursue the subject matter of these claims in a future continuation or divisional application.

Please amend claims 3, 21, 22, 25, 28, 61, 84, 101, 104 and 107-109 under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.121(c) as follows. The clean amended claims are presented below, while the set of marked-up claims is attached.

3. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the agent is an activated nucleophile, is not a peptide, and is further characterized by the presence within the agent of an electrophile and chirality complementary to a bacterial cell wall peptide.

21. (Amended) A method of killing vancomycin resistant Van A, Van B, Van D, or Van G Gram-positive bacteria which comprises contacting the bacteria with an agent that selectively cleaves D-Ala-D-Lac cell wall depsipeptide in the bacteria in an amount effective to cleave such depsipeptide and an antibacterial amount of vancomycin or a homolog of vancomycin so as to thereby kill the bacteria.

22. (Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein the agent is an activated nucleophile, is not a peptide, and is further characterized by the presence within the agent of an electrophile and chirality complementary to a bacterial cell wall depsipeptide.

25. (Amended) The method of claim 21, where the agent catalytically cleaves said D-Ala-D-Lac cell wall

depsipeptide.

28. (Amended) The method of claim 27, wherein the agent is administered a sufficient period of time prior to administering vancomycin or the homolog of vancomycin to permit cleavage of the D-Ala-D-Lac cell wall depsipeptide to be effected.

61. (Amended) A method of killing glycopeptide antibiotic resistant Gram-positive bacteria which comprises contacting the bacteria with an agent that selectively cleaves D-Ala-D-Lac cell wall depsipeptide in the bacteria in an amount effective to cleave such depsipeptide and an antibacterial amount of the glycopeptide antibiotic so as to thereby kill the bacteria.

84. (Amended) The method of claim 42, wherein the agent is an activated nucleophile, is not a peptide, and is further characterized by the presence within the agent of an electrophile and chirality complementary to a bacterial cell wall peptide.

101. (Amended) The method of claim 61, wherein the agent is an activated nucleophile, is not a peptide, and is further characterized by the presence within the agent of an electrophile and chirality complementary to a bacterial cell wall depsipeptide.

104. (Amended) The method of claim 61, where the agent catalytically cleaves the D-Ala-D-Lac cell wall depsipeptide.

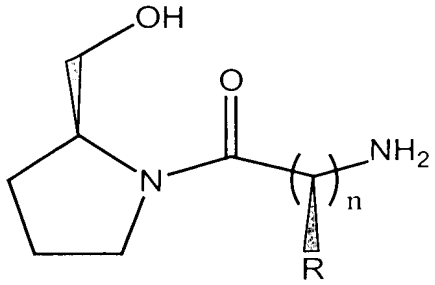
107. (Amended) The method of claim 61, wherein the agent is administered a sufficient period of time prior to administering the glycopeptide antibiotic to permit cleavage of the D-Ala-D-Lac depsipeptide to be effected.

108. (Amended) The method of claim 61, wherein the agent and the glycopeptide antibiotic are administered simultaneously.

109. (Amended) The method of claim 108, wherein the agent is covalently attached to the glycopeptide antibiotic.

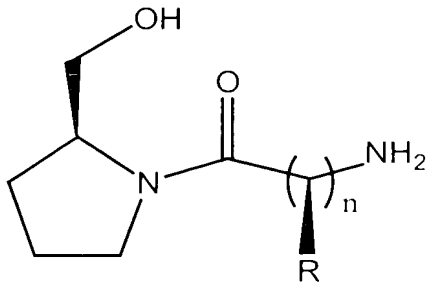
Please add new claims 110-115 as follows:

110. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the agent has the structure:



wherein n is an integer from 1 to 6 inclusive and R is hydrogen or a C_1 to C_6 straight chain or branched alkyl group.

111. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the agent has the structure:



wherein n is an integer from 1 to 6 inclusive and R is hydrogen or a C_1 to C_6 straight chain or branched alkyl group.

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112. (New) The method of claim 86, wherein n=5 and R=H.

113. (New) The method of claim 103, wherein n=5 and R=H.

114. (New) The method of claim 110, wherein n=5 and R=H.

115. (New) The method of claim 111, wherein n=5 and R=H.